



## DuPage Water Commission Members Participate in Water Conservation Panel for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Date: May 1, 2015

From April 28-30, 2015, DuPage Water Commission (DWC) Members John Spatz, Terry McGhee, and Jenessa Rodriguez participated as water expert panelists for Hadley Junior High's Problem-Based Learning Program. According to School District 41's [PBL website](#), the teachers 'intentionally integrate problem solving into curriculum through Problem-Based Learning. Problem-based learning will enhance the opportunities our students have to be critical thinkers, to collaborate, to create, and to communicate their thinking.'

For this PBL, the sixth graders were asked to create a solution to the following problem:

'As a science student who is investigating the uneven distribution of natural resources, you have noticed that water is not being conserved as best as possible within your community. People are wasting water on their lawns, within their homes, and within businesses.

Being a concerned citizen, you enlist your classmates to investigate whether humans are affecting the amount of water available in our community. Together, you investigate the problem, consulting with experts in the field whenever possible. You create an action plan on how to conserve water and to help educate members within our community on this issue. You will present your action plan to environmental experts along with members of the community.'

The three DWC members along with other water experts and community members listened to student presentations, asked questions and gave feedback, and completed a rubric for the presentation itself and its content. After collecting these rubrics, the teachers and classmates will pick one solution to move forward on and try to make it come to fruition.

The students built websites (examples [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) or made posters that had surveys, facts, and helpful tips to conserve water. Some of them created ideas for conserving water such as: making rain barrels mandatory in Glen Ellyn or at Hadley Junior High, doing a fundraiser to raise money to purchase water saving kits to hand out to Glen Ellyn residents, and creating a law to have automatic shut off shower timers in all Glen Ellyn homes.